

What's Happening with our High School Students?

Explanatory Notes

* This figure in brackets includes the 144 AESD graduates (1800) who were not able to be tracked during this current school year and are "more likely...working, unemployed, or engaged in other activities." This figure (144) was divided evenly with 48 graduates being added to each of the following categories: working, unemployed, and other.

** This figure in brackets includes the 621 provincial graduates (5,992) who were not able to be tracked during this current school year and are "more likely...working, unemployed, or engaged in other activities." This figure (621) was divided evenly with 207 graduates being added to each of the following categories: working, unemployed, and other.

These figures do not take into account those students who dropped out, failed to meet provincial graduation requirements, or the approximately 60 students who graduated later in the fall through upgrading.

Something to Consider... A National Perspective

Youth In Transition Survey, 2002 found that by age 20, 85% of Canadian youth had graduated from high school...70% of those 20 year olds who graduated from high school had gone on to some form of post secondary education...33% - university, 50% - college, 17% - other.

If you take the 15% of twenty year old Canadian youth who did not graduate from high school and add the 30% of graduates who did not go on to any form of post secondary education, you get a total of 45% of all students who were in school obtaining a high school education or less !!!

Only 55% of all the students who were in high school went on to some form of post secondary education. Now consider the dropout rates at the post secondary level for those 55% of all high school students who participated in post secondary educational opportunities !!!

	Our High School Graduates ¹		Avalon East High School Graduates		Province High School Graduates	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Post Secondary Education						
Memorial University			1002	60.5 (55.7)*	2126	39.6 (35.5)**
College of the North Atlantic			82	5.0 (4.6)	931	17.3 (15.5)
Marine Institute			15	0.9 (0.8)	112	2.1 (1.9)
Private Colleges			45	2.7 (2.5)	229	4.3 (3.8)
Out of Province Institutions			58	3.5 (3.2)	410	7.6 (6.8)
Total			1202	72.6 (66.8)	3808	70.9 (63.6)
Working, Unemployed, Other						
Working			310 (358)	18.7 (19.9)	898 (1105)	16.7 (18.4)
Unemployed			55 (103)	3.3 (5.7)	416 (623)	7.7 (10.4)
Other			89 (137)	5.4 (7.6)	249 (456)	4.6 (7.6)
Total			454 (598)	27.4 (33.2)	1563 (2184)	29.1 (36.4)
Grand Total			1656 (1800)	100 (100)	5371 (5992)	100 (100)

Source: Follow Up Report of High School Graduates, June 2001

1. Survey results for specific high schools may be obtained by visiting:
(http://www.education.gov.nf.ca/sch_rep/2000/index.htm)

Something to Consider...A Provincial Prospective...

The Youth in Transition Survey, 2002 also estimated our provincial dropout rate to be approximately 11%. The above provincial figures show that approximately 29% of our graduates did not go on to pursue post secondary educational opportunities. If you allow for 5% of students who remained in school but failed to meet graduation requirements then our provincial statistics also indicate that approximately 45% of all our students who were in school obtained a high school education or less.

Only 55% of all the students who were in our high schools went on to some form of post secondary education. There is an abundance of evidence that indicates that these students are experiencing significant difficulties in making the transition to post secondary educational programs.

A Call to Action

One can always find fault with statistics and these are no different. They do however indicate a need to examine more closely what these kind of numbers mean for the future well being of our young people, our communities, our province, and our country. They also indicate a need for us to collaborate on developing an action orientated approach to more effectively support our young people on their career development journeys.